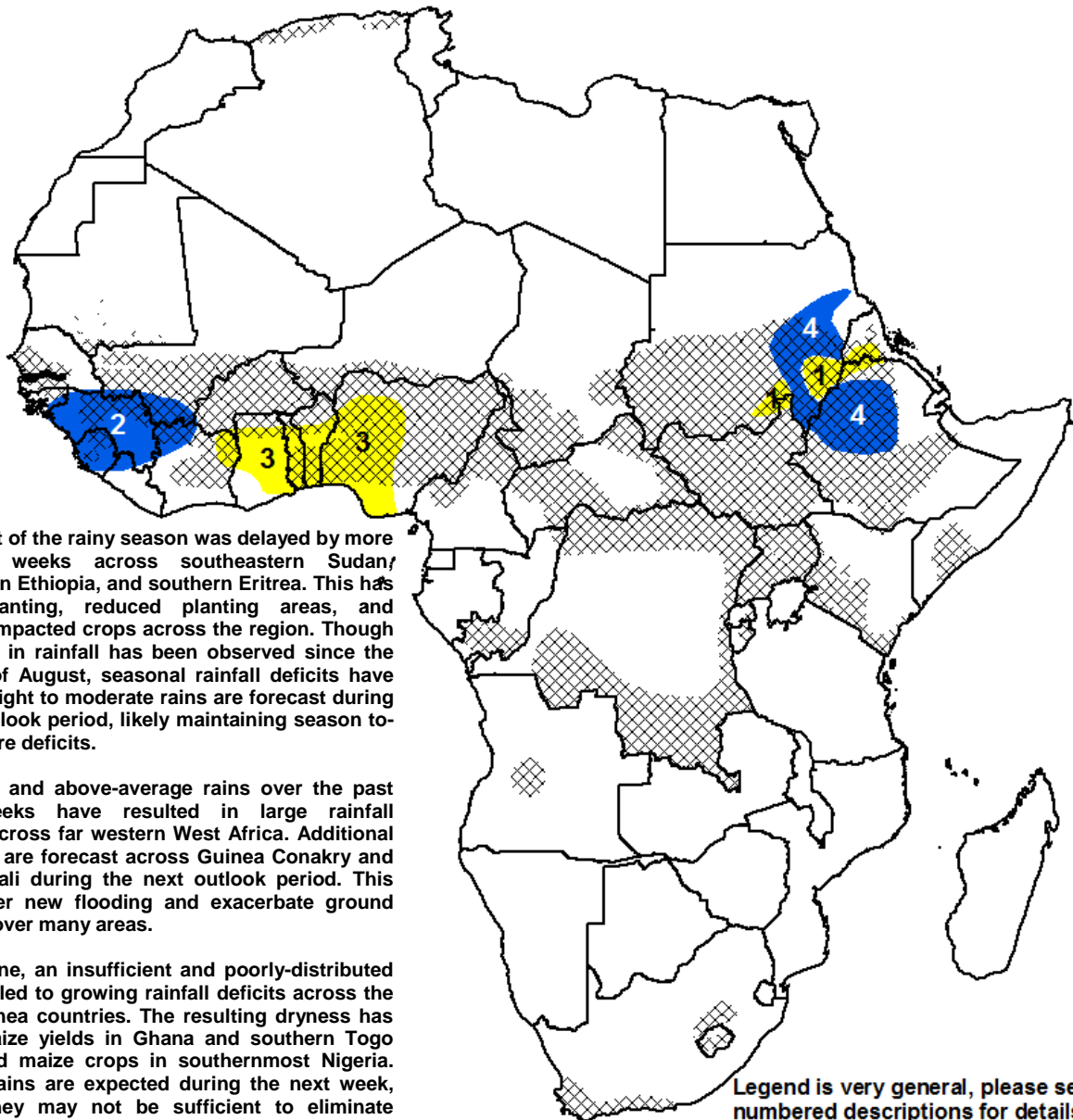




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 29 – September 4, 2013

- A slight reduction in rainfall was observed across West Africa, while seasonal rains continued over eastern Africa during the past week.



	August Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Dryness worsens along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past seven days, a slight reduction in rainfall was observed over West Africa, though torrential (> 75 mm) rains continued across the far western portions of the region, including southern Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and western Mali. The consistent heavy rains over the past several weeks have increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses over Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and parts of western Mali. Meanwhile, a widespread rainfall distribution was observed throughout southern Mali, Burkina Faso, western Niger, northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, Chad, and CAR (**Figure 1**). This past week's cumulative rainfall was average to above-average and helped to maintain overall adequate ground moisture across the Sahel. In contrast, suppressed rains were recorded along the Gulf of Guinea, particularly, throughout southeastern Cote d'Ivoire to southwestern Nigeria. As a result, thirty-day rainfall deficits have grown across the region.

An analysis of the percent of normal rainfall during the past thirty days exhibits very low amounts of rainfall accumulation since late July, accounting for only less than 25 percent of the average across the central parts of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and southern portions of Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 2**). The growing rainfall deficits were mainly attributable to a poor distribution of rainfall during June and July and prolonged dry *August break* in southern Nigeria.

For next week, rainfall forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall along the Gulf of Guinea, with light to moderate rains throughout Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and southern Nigeria. This could help to reduce moisture deficits and replenish soil moisture across the region. Farther north, heavy rains are expected to continue over Guinea Conakry, southern Mali, and northern Cote d'Ivoire. Moderate to heavy rains are also forecast across Burkina Faso, northern Benin, Niger, and central Nigeria.

Dryness persists despite some improvement in rainfall.

Since the beginning of August, an increase in rainfall has been observed over eastern Africa, particularly, Sudan, where flooding was reported in several states during early period of the month. During the past week, heavy rains continued over southeastern Sudan, helping to reduce thirty-day moisture deficits across the region. However, dryness has persisted as large season to-date rainfall deficits remained over the Quadarif and Sennar states of eastern Sudan. Cumulative rainfall has been among the lowest in records over the past thirty years as shown in the rainfall percentile (**Figure 3**). While the prolonged delay of the onset of the season had already reduced planting area, the shorter window of the season left is likely to result in reduced crop yields. During the next outlook period, a reduction in rainfall is forecast across Sudan, with light to moderate rains across the southeastern parts. Moderate to locally heavy rains are, however, expected farther west, which could trigger flooding over the Darfur region. Meanwhile, heavy rains are expected to continue in western Ethiopia and western South Sudan.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

